

AC. 4444

1926.

ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Annual Report

of the

Public Health

of the

Administrative County of the

Isle of Ely,

For the Year 1926,

With Summary of Reports of District

Medical Officers of Health,

by

J. PIXTON WALKER, M.D., D.P.H.

LITTLEPORT, ISLE OF ELY :

WM. C. BARBER, PRINTER, VICTORIA STREET.

1927.

*With the Compliments of the
County Medical Officer of Health
for the Isle of Ely.*

*Public Health Department,
County Hall,
March, Cambs.*

1926.

ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Survey Annual Report

of the

Public Health

of the

Administrative County of the

Isle of Ely,

For the Year 1926,

With Summary of Reports of District

Medical Officers of Health,

by

J. PIXTON WALKER, M.D., D.P.H.

LITTLEPORT, ISLE OF ELY :

WM. C. BARBER, PRINTER, VICTORIA STREET.

1927.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29497747>

ISLE OF ELY COUNTY COUNCIL.

Public Health Committee.

BEATON, G. A.	LAXON, M.
BOWKER, J. W.	LUDDINGTON, J. L.
BURTON, A. D.	MARRISON, A. W. (Dr.)
CHILDS, L.	MORTON, F. C.
CLARKE, T. W. H.	NEWMAN, A. E. T. (Rev.)
CLARKE, Sir W. H.	OLLARD, J. W. A.
CLAYTON, C.	PEATLING, H. F. M.
COLLINGWOOD, H. D.	ROWE, W. E. H.
CUTLACK, W.	SMITH, J. E. J.
DENNIS, J. H.	WALTON, S. S. (Rev.)
FENDICK, J. S.	WEST, W. W.

Number 22. Quorum 5.

For its Sanatorium Benefit Sub-Committee, Mr. W. V. FUNDREY, of Wisbech, Chairman of the Isle of Ely Insurance Committee, is a Co-opted Member.

Maternity and Child Welfare Committee.

All the Public Health Committee and the following Co-opted Members:—

Mrs. COLLINS CLAYTON, Wisbech.
Mrs. WALTON, St. John's Rectory, March.

Number 25. Quorum 5.

Mental Deficiency Committee.

All the Public Health Committee and the following Co-opted Members:

Mrs. COLLINS CLAYTON, Wisbech.
Mrs. S. S. WALTON, March.

Number 25. Quorum 5.

Staff.

County Medical Officer of Health.

JAMES PIXTON WALKER, M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.

JOHN YOUNG, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

Health Visitors and School Nurses.

(a)—Council Officials (whole-time).

Miss M. E. CLIFFE, Whittlesey.

Miss M. G. E. FYSON (to November 27th, 1926), Littleport.

Miss L. D. GOODWIN (to February 8th, 1926), Wisbech.

Miss G. HAWKINS, March.

Miss H. L. MORRIS, Ely.

Miss A. MORT, Chatteris.

Mrs. E. D. SVORONOS (from November 29th, 1926), Littleport.

Miss E. T. TAYLOR (from February 8th, 1926), Wisbech.

Miss F. M. UDELL (from August 3rd, 1926), March.

Miss A. WARDLE (to June 30th, 1926), March.

(b)—Employed by District Nursing Associations (part-time).

The nurse or nurses at:—

Chatteris	Manea
Gorefield	March
Haddenham	Outwell
Little Downham	Sutton

Home-Teacher and Visitor for the Blind.

J. H. MACKENZIE, M.A.

Clerical Staff.

H. A. HOUSE (Chief Clerk).

A. ANNESS.

LOCAL SANITARY AUTHORITIES.

Urban Districts and Boroughs	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.
1. Ely	A. K. Campbell, Esq.	.. F. H. M. A. Beckett, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.
2. Chatteris ..	W. F. Moore, Esq. ..	.. R. E. Nix, B.A., M.B., B.Ch.
3. March	C. Greenwood, Esq.	.. F. A. Evison, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
4. Whittlesey ..	F. W. English, Esq.	.. C. H. Harding, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
5. Wisbech ..	F. W. Coulam, Esq.	.. Harry Groom, B.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.S.A.

Rural Districts.	Clerks.	District Medical Officers of Health.
1. Ely	F. W. Green, Esq. ..	.. C. W. Howe, M.B., Ch.B., D.T.M., D.P.H.
2. North Witchford	H. P. Sharman, Esq.	.. Cecil E. Stephens, M.D.
3. Thorney	A. F. Whittome, Esq.	.. H. Clapham, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
4. Wisbech ..	R. W. Fairecloth, Esq.	.. C. H. Gunson, M.B., Ch.B.

Port.

Port of Wisbech	F. W. Coulam, Esq.	.. G. F. Collins, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
-----------------	--------------------	---

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Isle of Ely County Council.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in presenting to you the County Health Report for 1926, this being my fifth as your County Medical Officer of Health.

It is an Ordinary Report, and necessarily not as full as the Survey Report of last year, the latter type of Report being only required once in five years.

The special features of the year comprise amongst other things additions to the County Hall, whereby your Staff will soon be more comfortably and better housed, and the greater development of the Mental Deficiency Work through your co-operation with and support of a new Voluntary Association which has for its object that of assisting in the Isle's Mental Deficiency Work, by means of its voluntary workers, and its part-time paid Secretary, Miss M. W. Hosken.

The fusion of the Rural and Urban Districts of Whittlesey into one area, through an order made by your Council and confirmed by the Ministry of Health, is another notable advance from which good to the area concerned can be expected to accrue.

With pleasure do I record once again my appreciation of the great help I receive from the Medical Officers of Health of the various Districts, from my Staff, and from the other officials of your Council.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. P. WALKER.

July, 1927.

Administrative County of the Isle of Ely.

The Annual Reports for the year 1926, from the Medical Officers of Health for the Districts within the Administrative County, as submitted to the Isle of Ely County Council, in pursuance of Section 24, of the Local Government Act, 1888, were received as follows:

	Area.	Medical Officer.	Date Received.	Style.
Urban Districts	Chatteris	Dr. Nix ..	May 21st, 1927	Manuscript
	Ely	Dr. Beckett ..	June 1st, 1927	Typewritten
	March	Dr. Exton ..	July 18 1927	Printed
	Whittlesey	Dr. Harding ..	June 27th, 1927	Printed
	Wisbech	Dr. H. Groom ..	May 1th, 1927	Printed
Rural Districts	Ely	Dr. Howe ..	April 11th, 1927	Printed
	North Witchford ..	Dr. Stephens ..	June 21st, 1927	Printed
	Thorney	Dr. Clapham ..	May 23rd, 1927	Printed
	Wisbech	Dr. Gimson ..	May 31st, 1927	MS. prior to Printing
	Wisbech Port ..	Dr. Collins ..	March 24th, 1927	Manuscript
	San. Authority			

Up to September 30th, Dr. Waddelow was Medical Officer of Health of the Whittlesey Rural District, but as his area thenceforth became one with the Whittlesey Urban District, any comparisons between the present day Whittlesey Urban District and the old area must take this amalgamation of districts into consideration. Dr. Harding succeeded to the Medical Officership of Health of the conjoined region.

Although the Ministry of Health has often requested that all Reports may be received not later than the end of April, the custom is more honoured in the breach than the observance. There is an improvement, however, reports coming in earlier than they did formerly; Medical Officers would still do well to repeat advice given by them in previous reports if the matters complained of are not receiving due attention.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Below is a statement of the cost of the Isle of Ely County Council's Public Health Services for the year 1926—1927, apart from the cost of the School Medical Service.

	£	s.	d.
Salaries of Medical Officers and Health Visitors	2825	16	0
Tuberculosis (Clinics, Sanatoria)	3829	17	3
Maternity and Child Welfare	762	12	0
Venereal Disease	373	8	5
Mental Deficiency	823	9	6
Welfare of the Blind	200	16	8
Establishment Expenses	87	11	8
	<hr/>		
	8903	11	6
Less amount received from Education Committee for School Medical Service	547	17	6
	<hr/>		
Nett	£8355	14	0
	<hr/>		

	£	s.	d.
Receipts from Grants, &c.—			
Tuberculosis	2834	1	7
Maternity & Child Welfare	556	13	1
Venereal Disease	170	0	0
Mental Deficiency	433	0	0
Welfare of the Blind	78	0	0
Miscellaneous	186	14	6
	<hr/>		
	£4258	9	2
	<hr/>		
Net Cost payable from County Funds ...	£4097	4	10
	<hr/>		

STATISTICS, 1926.

Area of Administrative County (land & water)...	acres	238,073
Rateable Value *	...	£795,853
Reduced Assessable Value	...	£115,711
Product of a Penny Rate	...	£1,857 2s. 7d.

Rates in 1926 :—General Purposes ... 2s. 7d.

Education 1s. 6d.

Total 4s. 13d.

Population (estim. to middle of year)	77,070
---------------------------------------	-----	-----	--------

No. of Births in the year	{	males 803	{	Legitimate	736	} 1539
			{	Illegitimate	67	
	{	females 736	{	Legitimate	697	
			{	Illegitimate	39	

Birth-rate per 1,000	19.96
----------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-------

Total No. of Deaths in the year	...	(males 461)	...	889
		(females 428)		

Death-rate per 1,000	(uncorrected 11.53 (corrected ... 9.19
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	---

Number dying under 1 year old	...	$\begin{pmatrix} \text{males } 54 \\ \text{females } 39 \end{pmatrix}$...	93
-------------------------------	-----	--	-----	----

Infantile Mortality-rate (per 1,000 Births)	60.42
---	-----	-----	-------

In males ...	67.24	(in legitimate males... 62.50
		(in illegitimate males 119.25

In females... 52.98 (in legitimate females 53.08
(in illegitimate females 51.29

England and Wales—

Birth-rate	17.8
------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	------

Death-rate	116
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Infantile Mortality-rate	70
--------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION.

The estimated population of the County has increased from 76,180 at the mid-year 1925 to 77,070 at the mid year 1926. From and including October 1st, 1926, the Rural District of Whittlesey was incorporated with the Whittlesey Urban District, so that of the 77,070 population 39,745 belong to Urban Districts, and 37,325 to Rural Districts.

BIRTHS.

The births in the Urban Districts (and from this total all occurring during the year 1926 in the Whittlesey Rural portion of the area prior to October 1st, 1926, are excluded) numbered 822 (413 being males and 379 females), giving a birth-rate of 20.6 per thousand of population. The births in the Rural Districts (and from this total all occurring during the year in the old Whittlesey Rural District after September 30th, 1926, are excluded) numbered 717 (360 males and 357 females), giving a birth-rate of 19.2 per thousand.

The illegitimate births in the Urban Districts numbered 72.9 per thousand births, whilst in the Rural Districts they numbered only 64.1 per thousand.

The total births for the County numbered 1,539 (803 males and 736 females), giving a birth-rate of 19.96, compared with one of 17.8 for England and Wales.

Some patients from this County have attended the Birth Control Clinic held at Fitzroy Hall, Wellington Street, Newmarket Road, Cambridge, from 3-5 p.m., on Tuesdays, announcements of its sessions being made in each issue of the Cambridge weekly newspaper.

It is attended by women suffering from Tuberculosis, Epilepsy, Diabetes, Heart Disease, &c., desirous of limiting their families, and by others who want to space out their children, being anxious to avoid lowering unduly their standard of life. It is calculated that 2.58 legitimate births per marriage are necessary to replace each generation as it disappears.

DEATHS.

The deaths in 1926 numbered 889 (506 males and 383 females). Of these deaths, 506 (251 males and 252 females) occurred in the enlarged Urban Districts, and 383 (207 males and 176 females) in the Rural Districts, giving an uncorrected death-rate per 1,000 of 12·73 for the Urban Districts, and an uncorrected death-rate of 10·26 for the Rural Districts.

When corrected, however, by the standardisation factor for correction, these numbers being 0·783 for the Urban Districts, and 0·816 for the Rural Districts, the Corrected Death-rate for the Urban Districts is 9·96, whilst that for the Rural Districts becomes 8·37, compared with a Death-rate for England and Wales of 11·6 per thousand of population.

STANDARDISING FACTORS FOR CORRECTION OF DEATH-RATES.

It may be well to state exactly what is meant by a "Corrected" Death-rate, and what is not meant by it. Deaths must be registered in the districts where they occur; but this gross death-rate must first be amended by eliminating the deaths of those who are strangers to the area. Thus, serious accident cases for many miles around are taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital for treatment and may die there within a few hours of their arrival in that institution. Obviously it would be unfair to judge of the healthiness of the Borough of Cambridge in comparison with that of other towns where no such large hospital exists if these deaths of strangers were not excluded from the number.

Others, however, from Cambridge Borough die whilst on visits to places outside the area, so that their number must be added to the list of deaths occurring in Cambridge. When the necessary subtractions and additions have been made, a nett death-rate for an area can be calculated; in other words, it is a correction for the deaths of non-residents in a locality.

But this nett Death-rate is not a "Corrected" Death-rate. The Corrected Death-rate is arrived at by other means, and a corrected death-rate affords a simple and fairly accurate measure of the comparative presence of diseases in localities. If we could imagine a district populated by 1,000 people only all over ninety years of age, it would be obvious that in the natural course of events a large number of them would die of old age in the ensuing year, and the death-rate might easily be as high as 100 per thousand, no matter how salubrious the neighbourhood. Again, if the population consisted only of persons about twenty years old the death-rate would naturally be quite low, even if the district were somewhat unhealthy, and might possibly be as low as five per thousand.

But as communities have mixed populations, of different sexes and ages, a true comparison of the healthiness of various localities can only be made by calculating what its death-rate would have been had its inhabitants in age and sex corresponded with those throughout the country as a whole.

This can be ascertained from the figures shown by the previous census, and we obtain a factor which is generally greater than unity for towns, and less than unity for rural areas.

In the following Table these factors appear, and by multiplying the nett death-rates by these factors we find the true corrected death-rates for purposes of comparison of the healthiness, or otherwise, of the several districts:—

Area.	Factor for Correction.	Apparent death-rate.	Corrected death-rate.
Chatteris ...	... 0·779	... 14·07	... 10·96
Ely Urban ...	... 0·756	... 11·39	... 8·61
March ...	... 0·819	... 10·99	... 9·00
Whittlesey ...	... 0·786	... 15·05	... 11·82
Wisbech Borough ...	... 0·790	... 12·50	... 9·87
Ely Rural ...	... 0·739	... 11·63	... 8·59
North Witchford ...	... 0·792	... 13·38	... 10·59
Thorney ...	... 0·996	... 7·39	... 7·36
Wisbech Rural ...	... 0·901	... 8·30	... 7·56
Aggregate Isle of Ely			
Urban Districts ...	... 0·783	... 12·73	... 9·96
Do. Rural Districts ...	... 0·816	... 10·26	... 8·37
Whole Isle of Ely ...	... 0·797	... 11·53	... 9·19
England and Wales ...	... —	... 11·6	... 11·6

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

The death-rate in infants 60-12 per thousand is rather less than last year, when it was 65·66, but does not equal the record of 1924 when it was 58·86. By the Births and Deaths Registration Act, 1926, from July 1st, 1927 all Stillbirths must be registered by the Registrar of Births and Deaths.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

The total deaths from these diseases in the County during the year 1926 comprised 4 deaths from Measles, 2 from Scarlet Fever, 7 from Whooping Cough, 4 from Diphtheria, 44 from Influenza, and 6 from Encephalitis Lethargica, the so-called "Sleepy Sickness," the death toll from this disease being as high as in all the three preceding years.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

The deaths from Tuberculosis of the Lungs numbered 39, a figure only beaten once, viz., in 1924, and the deaths from other forms of Tuberculosis numbered 15, the total deaths from Tuberculosis thus numbering 54, figures approaching very nearly the record number 52 in 1924, though the estimate of population is exactly a thousand more than in the record year.

DEATHS FROM CANCER.

Cancer claimed 126 deaths last year, a total only exceeded in two previous years.

OTHER DEATHS.

The deaths from Suicide are higher than for many years past, but the deaths from other troubles in the Isle of Ely compare very favourably with those throughout England and Wales, except for violent deaths.

Disease.	Death-rate per 1000 in England and Wales.			In the Isle of Ely.	
Enteric Fever	...	0·01	...	...	0·00
Measles	...	0·09	...	...	0·05
Scarlet Fever	...	0·02	...	...	0·02
Whooping Cough		0·10	...	...	0·09
Diphtheria	...	0·07	...	...	0·05
Influenza	...	0·22	...	...	0·19
Suicide and Violence		0·47	...	...	0·49

Full details as to the causes of death in the Isle of Ely are to be found in the following Tables :-

County of Isle of Ely.

Causes of Death in Administrative Areas, 1926.

CAUSES OF DEATH	URBAN								RURAL						Total for Urban and Rural Districts	GRAND TOTAL.				
	Chatteris.		Ely		March.		Whittlesey.		Wisbech		North.		Thorney.				Whittlesey.		Wisbech.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.			M.	F.	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	34	38	46	39	55	56	46	42	73	77									889	
1. Enteric Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
2. Small Pox .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
3. Measles .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
4. Scarlet Fever .. ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
5. Whooping Cough	1	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	7
6. Diphtheria .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
7. Influenza	2	2	1	..	..	1	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
8. Encephalitis Lethargica .. ..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
9. Meningococcal Meningitis .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
10. Tuberculosis of Resp'y System .. ..	..	1	3	1	1	2	3	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	6	1	39
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	2	1	1	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	15
12. Cancer, malignant disease	4	9	7	6	8	7	7	8	6	10	13	5	2	..	..	..	14	8	126
13. Rheumatic Fever .. ..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4
14. Diabetes .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	8
15. Cerebral Hemorrhage, &c.	3	1	5	5	4	2	2	5	1	8	5	5	3	1	1	2	3	1	32	
16. Heart Disease	4	5	7	3	3	5	2	5	2	4	11	2	1	3	..	4	9	8	64	
17. Arterio-sclerosis	1	..	1	1	..	..	2	1	5	3	2	3	1	..	..	2	2	3	45
18. Bronchitis .. ..	..	..	..	2	2	7	..	1	5	4	1	3	4	..	..	1	1	1	11
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	1	1	2	1	5	1	6	5	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	21	9
20. Other Respiratory Diseases .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	2	1	1	5	13
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	22
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	19
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	2
	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1

Causes of Death at Different Periods of Life in the Administrative County of Isle of Ely in 1926.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Sex.	Aggregate of Urban Districts.										Aggregate of Rural Districts.										
		All Ages.										All Ages.										
		0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75 & upwards	0—	1—	2—	5—	15—	25—	45—	65—	75 & upwards			
ALL CAUSES ..	M.	254	25	9	10	6	9	17	55	58	65	207	29	4	5	2	6	8	16	46	36	62
	F.	252	21	3	5	3	11	16	53	56	84	176	18	..	..	..	4	7	17	28	33	62
1. Enteric Fever	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. Small Pox	M.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
3. Measles ..	M.	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
4. Scarlet Fever	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5. Whooping Cough	M.	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
6. Diphtheria..	M.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	0	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	2	..	1	1	1	..	..	2	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..
7. Influenza ..	M.	7	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	2	0	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
	F.	4	..	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	M.	3	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
9. Meningococcal Meningitis	M.	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	F.	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10. Tuberculosis of Resp'y System	M.	10	..	..	..	..	4	3	3	..	..	11	..	..	..	..	1	3	4	2	..	1
	F.	9	..	..	..	..	5	2	1	1	..	9	..	1	..	..	2	3	3	..	..	..
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	M.	2	1	..	..	1	2	1	1	..	..	3	2	1	1	..	..	2	2	..	..	..
	F.	5	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	5	2	..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..
12. Cancer, malignant disease	M.	32	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	10	8	32	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	11	9	11
	F.	40	..	..	..	..	..	1	13	14	12	22	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	7	9	5

[illegible]

METEOROLOGY.

By the kindness of the Hon. Anna Jane Peckover, I am able to state from her records that the maximum shade temperature for the year 1926 was 87° F. on September 19th, and the minimum shade temperature 9° F. on January 16th and 17th. The lowest day temperature was 27° F. on January 15th, and the highest night temperature was 63° F. on July 19th and August 16th.

The rainfall was as follows :—

			Inches.
January	...	...	2·86
February	...	...	1·76
March	...	...	0·19
April	...	...	1·89
May	...	...	2·50
June	...	...	3·48
July	...	...	1·39
August	...	...	1·14
September	...	...	2·16
October	...	...	2·24
November	...	...	2·95
December	...	...	0·47

Total rainfall during the year, 23·03 inches.

The heaviest fall was 1·10 inches on September 2nd, and there were 174 days when more than ·01 inch (or more) of rain fell.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY.

During the year continued efforts have been made to ascertain and visit cases of Mental Deficiency in the Isle of Ely.

There still exists a great difficulty in finding institutions willing to take suitable cases from this area, the available accommodation for such being so small.

At the time of writing there are known to be in the Isle of Ely 69 feeble-minded persons, 35 males and 34 females; of these, 3 males and 9 females are in residential institutions.

There are 28 imbeciles, 16 males and 12 females; of these, 6 males and 3 females are in residential institutions.

Two male moral imbeciles are in institutions.

Of 17 idiots, 5 males and 12 females, 5 males and 4 females are in residential institutions.

The known mental defectives number 116, 58 males and 58 females; of these, 16 males and 16 females are in institutions.

Miss M. W. Hosken, the part-time Secretary of the Isle of Ely Voluntary Association for Mental Welfare, has paid 374 visits to cases or supposed cases of mental deficiency, 144 of these visits being to Education Committee's cases. By her help, 1 boy has been placed in work and he has been able to keep it now for nearly six months.

An Occupation Centre has been carried on by her at Wisbech under the auspices of a local Committee on two mornings a week, where, besides singing, drilling, &c., various forms of simple hand-work have been taught. She has had the kind assistance of members of the Women's Institute in teaching basket-making to two elder boys; her general work is carried on in co-operation with the County Council's staffs, and with the Ely Diocesan Rescue Workers.

SAMPLES OF FOOD AND DRUGS TAKEN IN 1926.

The samples taken during the year numbered 196, of which 18 were taken formally and 178 informally.

All samples proved to be genuine except ten, these comprising 8 samples of milk and 2 of preserved cream.

An informal sample of milk proved to be 16 per cent. deficient in milk fat and another informal sample proved to be 46 per cent. deficient in milk fat, although a subsequent sample taken formally proved to be genuine.

In the cases in which legal proceedings were taken, one of deficiency of 21 per cent. of milk fat was dismissed.

In one of milk where 52 per cent. of added water was found a fine of £10 10s. and costs was inflicted, a similar penalty being enforced in the case of a milk sample where there was found 50 per cent. of added water.

In a case of milk found to be 45 per cent. deficient in milk fat a fine of £1 was imposed, and in a case where 8 per cent. of added water was found a fine of £5 with £4 4s. costs was inflicted.

In the last case, one of a deficiency of 21 per cent. of milk fat, a fine of £2 was imposed.

Two samples of Cream taken informally were found to contain Boric Acid. The vendors were cautioned.

The samples taken comprised:—Anchovy Paste (1), Baking Powder (7), Bread (12), Butter (9), Cakeoma (3), Caster Oil (3), Cheese (3), Cocoa (4), Cornflour (4), Cream (5), Cream of Tartar (1), Custard Powder (1), Egg Powder (2), Flour (1), Ground Ginger (2), Glycerine (2), Jam (1), Lard (6), Margarine (7), Meat Paste (1), Milk (66), Condensed Milk (5), Mustard (7), Pea Flour (4), Pepper (5), Quinine (1), Ground Rice (2), Sago (3), Salmon and Shrimp Paste (4), Bicarbonate of Soda (1), Sugar (8), Tapioca (5), Tartaric Acid (1), Tea (5), Vinegar (3), and Whiskey (1). Total 196.

The following Table, for the details of which I am again indebted to Major Hartcup, C.B.E., Chief Constable, shows the respective districts from which the samples were taken.

Samples taken in 1926	Benwick	Chatteris	Christchurch	Doddington	Elm	Ely	Friday Bridge	Gorefield	Haddenham	Little Downham	Littleport	Manea	March	Mepal	Newton-in-the-Isle
Anchovy Paste	1	..	..
Baking Powder	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Bread	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	3	..	1
Butter	2	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cakeoma	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Castor Oil	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cheese	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cocoa	1	..	..
Corn Flour	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..
Cream	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Cream of Tartar	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Custard Powder
Egg Powder..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ginger (ground)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Glycerine	1	..	..
Jam
Lard	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..
Margarine	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Meat Paste
Milk ..	2	4	..	1	1	3	..	1	2	1	3	1	11	3	..
Milk (condensed)	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Mustard	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Peaflour	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pepper	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Quinine	1	..	..	..	..
Rice (ground)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sago	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Salmon & Shrimp Paste	1	..	2	..	..
Soda (Bicarbonate of)
Sugar	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Tapioca	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tartaric Acid	1	..	..
Tea	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vinegar	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Whiskey
Totals ..	2	19	3	3	3	19	2	7	6	1	8	2	29	3	1

Continued on following page.

Samples taken in 1926	Outwell	Parson Drove	Prickwillow	Stretham	Sutton	Thorney	Tydd St. Giles	Upwell	Whittlesey	Wilburton	Wimblington	Wisbech	Wisbech St. Mary	Witchford	Total
Anchovy Paste	1
Baking Powder	1	..	..	1	..	1	7
Bread	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	12
Butter	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	9
Cakeoma	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Castor Oil	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Cheese	1	..	..	3
Cocoa	1	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Corn Flour	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Cream	1	..	..	5
Cream of Tartar	1
Custard Powder	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Egg Powder..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Flour	1
Ginger (ground)	1
Glycerine	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Jam	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Lard	1	..	..	..	..	..	6
Margarine	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	7
Meat Paste	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Milk	1	3	2	2	..	..	4	4	1	14	1	1	66
Milk (condensed)	1	..	..	..	..	5
Mustard	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	7
Peaflour	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	4
Pepper	1	..	..	..	..	5
Quinine	1
Rice (ground)	1	2
Sago	1	..	..	3
Salmon & Shrimp Paste	1	..	..	..	..	4
Soda (Bicarbonate of)	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sugar	1	..	2	..	1	..	1	8
Tapioca	1	1	..	..	..	..	5
Tartaric Acid	1
Tea	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	5
Vinegar	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Whiskey	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Totals ..	2	1	6	5	10	2	2	3	16	12	2	21	2	4	196

MILK AND CREAM REGULATIONS, 1912 AND 1917.

The following particulars refer to the administration of the Public Health (Milk and Cream) Regulations, 1912 and 1917, during the year 1926 :—

1. Milk and Cream not sold as preserved cream :

	(a) Number of samples examined for the presence of of preservatives.	(b) Number in which preservative was reported to be present.
Milk ...	66 ...	0
Cream ...	5 ...	2
	<hr/> 71	<hr/> 2

2. Cream sold as preserved Cream :—

(a) Instances in which samples have been submitted for analysis to ascertain if the statements on the label as to preservatives were correct.

(i.) Correct statements made ...	0
(ii.) Incorrect statements ...	0
	<hr/>
Total	0

(b) Determinations made of milk-fat in Cream sold as preserved Cream :—

(i.) Above 35 per cent. ...	0
(ii.) Below 35 per cent. ...	0
	<hr/>
Total	0

(c) Instances where (apart from analysis) the requirements as to labelling or declaration of preserved cream in Article V. (1) and the proviso in Article V. (2) of the regulations have not been observed.—None.

(d) Particulars of each case in which the Regulations have not been complied with, and action taken.—None.

3. Thickening substances. Any evidence of their addition to preserved cream. None.

4. Other observations, if any.

The samples of cream not sold as preserved Cream contained 52, 49·15, 20·6, 27, and 51·42 per cent. of milk-fat respectively.

The samples of milk taken during the year have shown a deterioration compared with 1925, both in the amount of cream and in the non-fatty solids.

Certified milk is now produced in March. It is also sold in Ely, but obtained from outside this County.

The following Table shows the average composition of the milk sold in the County during the respective quarters of the year:—

Quarter ending	Average Total Solids.	Average Solids— Non-fat.	Average Fat.	Average Specific Gravity	Number of Samples.
March	11·454	8·320	3·134	1030·22	19
June	11·918	8·639	3·229	1031·73	17
September ..	12·993	8·755	4·237	1031·06	16
December ..	12·390	8·800	3·590	1031·97	14
Averages for 1922..	12·329	8·745	3·583	1031·60	60
Averages for 1923..	12·384	8·725	3·655	1031·42	67
Averages for 1924..	12·343	8·563	3·779	1030·47	66
Averages for 1925..	12·600	8·780	3·82	1031·46	66
Averages for 1926..	12·145	8·622	3·522	1031·18	66

The following Table compares the average composition of the milk in the respective Divisions of the County in 1926:—

Area	Average Total Solids	Average Solids Non-fat	Average Fat	Average Specific Gravity	No. of Samples
Ely	12·673	8·833	3·840	1031·90	20
March	12·293	8·770	3·522	1031·81	29
Wisbech ..	11·273	8·123	3·150	1031·30	17

These figures show the marked falling off in the Wisbech area, which last year held the premier position as regards the quality of its milk.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are no untrained women practising midwifery in the Isle of Ely. Fifteen midwives notified their intention to practise in the County during 1926. (The Midwives Roll contained in March, 1926, the names of 62,680 women, but of these only about 23 per cent. are in practice as midwives).

Twenty-three notices were received from midwives under the Regulations of the Central Midwives' Board, as having sent for medical help.

Milk to infants and nursing mothers was provided to the value of £108 11s.

Health Visitors paid 1,345 first visits, and 7,008 subsequent visits to children at their homes during the year, 2,608 of these latter ones being to children aged from one to five years.

The sum of £19 10s. 6d. was incurred in respect of fees to medical practitioners summoned to the aid of midwives in necessitous cases.

Two cases of difficulty in connection with parturition were treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital for a total period of 26 in-patient days at a cost to the County of £8 1s.

The County midwives are regularly visited, their books, appliances, and modes of practice being carefully investigated.

There is no County Nursing Association in the Isle of Ely. Nurses belonging to some of the District Nursing Associations, however, receive visits from a Lady Inspector sent by the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute for Nurses, apart from those paid them by the County Medical Officer of Health.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES.

Infant Welfare Centres were held at Ely, Chatteris, Littleport, March, and Wisbech. New Centres have been started at Whittlesey and Thorney. The Centre at Little Downham ceased to function during the year owing to a difficulty often found in small, scattered areas, viz., scanty attendances.

SUPERANNUATION.

No further step has been taken as yet towards the superannuation of Local Government officials, although once again we lost three out of our seven Nurses, all very efficient workers on your behalf.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

As will be seen from the following Table, the increase of cases of Venereal Disease noted last year has been followed by a diminution of their number, the year 1926 being *a record low one* since the scheme began in 1919.

Year	Total New Cases attending for Consultation	New cases of				Total Out-Patient Attendance	Total In-Patient Days	Doses of Arseno- Benzol Compounds given to	
		Syphilis	Soft Chancre	Gonorrhoea	Non-venereal Conditions			In-Patients	Out-Patients
1919	35	12	..	16	7	..	104	..	..
1920	48	26	..	16	6	416	197	26	5
1921	41	17	..	23	1	341	155	19	5
1922	26	7	..	10	9	265	145	3	151
1923	29	10	1	16	2	288	386	21	168
1924	19	9	..	7	3	280	260	15	189
1925	40	12	..	21	7	293	270	6	129
1926	12	3	..	8	1	278	2	..	149

Of those attending the Centre at Cambridge, the number ceasing treatment before it was ascertained that their cure was completed was less than last year, the percentage being 27 compared with 36.

Poverty is no bar to treatment, inasmuch as rail fares are given to all necessitous cases on application by letter to the County Medical Officer at his office in March.

Laboratory facilities for cases of Venereal Disease are provided free of cost to all Isle of Ely medical men, and where practitioners have the requisite appliances and skill, arseno-benzol compounds are provided gratuitously for the purpose of treatment.

It cannot, however, be too often repeated that these diseases ought not to exist, and that, if strict continence were maintained, these contagious diseases which cause such intense misery and suffering would soon be things of the past.

As, however, human nature is frail, and liable to err, it should become well-known that, where incontinence occurs, if immediate self-disinfection be adopted by the injection of a port-wine coloured solution of permanganate of potash, the crystals to make which are procurable of any druggist, followed by the application to the parts of a 30 per cent. calomel ointment, there is little likelihood of the individual becoming affected by disease of a contagious nature, assuming, of course, that the erring ones are not too much under the influence of drink to apply these measures in a reasonably efficient manner, as is so often the case.

It must not be forgotten that infected individuals can transmit these diseases by want of cleanliness, and by kissing, and in other ways, to innocent persons.

Six beds are still reserved at Addenbrooke's for in-patient treatment of these cases. Fortunately there was very little call upon them for Isle of Ely cases last year.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND.

During the past year the Home Teacher and Visitor for the Blind (J. H. MacKenzie, M.A.) who holds the Home Teacher's Certificate of the College of Teachers of the Blind, visited the blind and partially blind of the area, and gave instruction to suitable cases.

The number of persons on the Register of the Blind in the Isle of Ely during the year 1926 was 74. Of these 36 were males and 38 females, of ages varying as follows:—

MALES.

0-5	5-16	16-21	21-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70			Total
..	7	2	2	1	7	3	3	11	..	..	36

FEMALES.

..	6	1	7	5	1	5	3	10	38
----	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----

The total number of visits paid during the year was 531, and the total number of lessons given was 270, these being: Braille 83, Moon 33, Basket Making 99, Chair Caning 33, Rush Seating 22.

There are at present three home workers under the Home Workers' scheme. One of these is employed in the manufacture of willow agricultural baskets, and, despite the fact of keen foreign competition, has been able to earn approximately from 17s. to 18s. per week. One of the others finds employment in the rushing of chairs for

Ely Cathedral. He also re-canes chairs for furniture dealers, and makes willow and cane baskets. With a considerable amount of difficulty it has been possible to find him constant employment, his average earnings after material has been paid for amounting to 8s. per week. The third is engaged in general basket making, and earns approximately 8s. to 10s. per week.

The Isle of Ely Blind Aid Society made the following grants to these home workers :—One received £10 to provide willow, another had a grant of 5s. per week in augmentation of wages, and the third received 4s. 6d. per week in augmentation of wages.

The Ministry of Health will pay grant to the extent of £60 for the augmentation of home workers' earnings, and to assist them in the procuring of material where the Society deems it fit to do so.

The Home Teacher is at present instructing a lad of 19 years in basket making. It is hoped that he may make progress. He is, however, also suffering from a mental defect which makes the result uncertain.

There are at present five Braille readers and one Moon reader receiving books from the National Library for the Blind. The Society has made payments of 10s. per reader to the National Library, and the total so paid amounts to £3. The Home Teacher is still giving instruction to these readers, and helping them to understand the literature with which they are supplied.

There are at present 13 blind or partly blind children under 16 years of age. Of these 4 are attending a Council Elementary School in the district, 5 are mentally deficient, whilst 3 are undergoing ophthalmic treatment, and being instructed by the Home Teacher. One is not so far incapacitated as to be unable to work on the land, and has recently left School, having reached the age of 14.

The Society is making a payment of 3s. per week to six necessitous cases where it is impossible to give training or render aid in any other form.

TUBERCULOSIS CLINICS.

The Clinics at Ely, March, and Wisbech continue to do good work, and have filled a much-felt want, there being no general or special Hospitals in the County, or even Dispensaries, for the treatment of Tuberculosis such as are to be found in most Administrative Counties, although casual cases are treated in the Wisbech Hospital, and in connection with the Ely Dispensary, besides the ordinary Poor Law Hospitals.

The Wisbech Clinic is about to be removed to offices previously occupied by the County Surveyor in Lynn Road.

A medical writer has recently told us that those in a family who will not eat the fat of meat are usually the first ones in a family to fall ill with an attack of Tuberculosis, whilst the good that has been done to countless numbers threatened with Tuberculosis by giving them bottles of cod liver oil, &c., can hardly be estimated, so great has been their benefit. To-day about one-eighth of the human race dies of Tuberculosis, whilst in many instances people have been infected by the bacillus of Tuberculosis which, though it has made them ill, has not been able to kill them, though post-mortem examination shows it has left its mark behind it. In the words of the old family doctor, "the strength of the constitution has overcome the threatened attack:" the enemy was still there, but he had been rendered powerless, for the time being.

Over 60 per cent. of healthy young adults have been found to react to the subcutaneous tuberculin test, whilst skilled observers have found small tuberculous lesions in fully 90 per cent. of the bodies of city-dwellers who have died from some other disease. To combat with such threatened disaster, cod liver oil and malt, and Virol have for many years been freely dispensed to cases of Tuberculosis, or pre-Tuberculosis, at the Clinics in the Isle of Ely with excellent effects, but the recent fiat of the Ministry of Health that the practice of treating patients at dispensaries on a large scale, and over prolonged periods, with bottles of medicine, cod liver oil, &c., should be discouraged is likely, I fear, to bring about a costly saving of money. The money spent on fats in the forms mentioned above, whilst amounting to hundreds of pounds perhaps, has probably saved this County as many thousands of pounds that would otherwise have had to have been spent later in sanatorium treatment. In the view of your County Medical Officer, speaking with a medical experience of over forty years to guide him, such expenditure has been money well spent, despite the Ministry's decision to regard as ineligible for grant any sums in excess of a certain small specified sum.

In any public service a small amount of overlapping is inevitable. Many go finally to the workhouse, who, perhaps, ought to have gone there years before, but if their declining to seek parochial relief is worthy of encouragement—and there is a lot of truth in the old saying—"Once a pauper, always a pauper"—and can be postponed or avoided by attendance at a County Council Clinic, then such overlapping may have had its beneficial side. What the community loses on its swings, it has more than gained on its roundabouts.

At the Ely Tuberculosis Clinic there were 112 patients, the number attending in the respective quarters of the year being 57, 54, 66, and 59, and the attendances 250, 281, 247, and 261, or 1,039 attendances in all. At March there were 131 patients, the number attending in the respective quarters of the year being 79, 74, 81, and

79, and the attendances 253, 278, 294, and 238, or 1,063 attendances in all. At Wisbech there were 122 patients, the number attending in the respective quarters of the year being 61, 53, 58, and 58, and the attendances 343, 247, 224, and 241 respectively, or 1,055 attendances in all. At your County Clinics, therefore, 365 patients attended as cases of Consumption, or with other forms of Tuberculosis, for consultation or treatment, or for purposes of diagnosis, making 3,157 attendances, an average weekly attendance of about 60 patients, *i.e.*, one more each week than attended in 1925.

Two patients were treated with Finsen Light and artificial sunlight treatment for Lupus at the London Hospital, making 609 attendances as out-patients at that Hospital during the year.

Details of the Notifications received during the year 1926 under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1912.
Previous years also given for comparison.*

	NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM A.										NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM B.			NOTIFICATIONS ON FORM C	
	Number of Primary Notifications										Number of Primary Notifications	Total Notifications on Form B.	Total Notifications on Form B.		
	Age Periods														
	0-1	1-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-25	25-35	35-45	45-55	55-65	65 and upwards				Under 5	5-10	10-15	Total Primary Notifications
Pulmonary: Males in 1922	3	2	5	2	7	5	2	..	28	28	37	44	28
" in 1923	4	1	6	6	12	5	1	1	36	36	37	44	36
" in 1924	4	4	4	5	14	4	5	..	44	44	44	49	44
" in 1925	3	3	2	2	2	3	1	..	19	19	19	19	19
" in 1926	..	1	2	2	1	4	6	6	3	1	26	26	26	26	26
Females in 1922	..	1	6	1	5	2	10	6	1	..	36	36	36	36	36
" in 1923	..	1	1	1	5	..	10	9	..	..	27	27	28	30	27
" in 1924	3	4	3	3	6	7	1	1	30	30	30	30	30
" in 1925	..	1	2	2	5	5	5	3	..	..	25	25	25	25	25
" in 1926	..	1	1	2	2	6	3	4	..	1	21	21	21	21	21
Non-Pulmonary: Males in 1922	..	2	7	1	2	1	..	1	..	..	14	14	14	14	14
" in 1923	..	2	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	10	10	10	10	10
" in 1924	..	1	3	3	3	..	3	1	3	..	19	19	19	19	19
" in 1925	..	3	3	4	3	..	2	2	1	..	21	21	21	21	21
" in 1926	..	4	3	1	2	1	2	2	..	..	15	15	15	15	15
Females in 1922	1	..	1	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	4	4	4	4	4
" in 1923	..	1	1	4	..	1	..	1	..	..	7	7	7	7	7
" in 1924	1	3	5	2	2	2	3	1	1	2	21	21	21	21	21
" in 1925	..	1	5	4	2	2	3	1	1	..	18	18	18	18	18
" in 1926	2	..	2	1	1	1	1	1	9	9	9	9	9

* As these particulars do not always agree in number with those enumerated in the notification returns forwarded each week by the Medical Officers of Health of the several Districts, a new system of "following-up" has been adopted to ensure agreement in the Tables as from the beginning of 1927.

HOME VISITING.

There were 22 consultations at the homes of patients with medical men, and 61 by letter or telephone with Island medical practitioners, and 127 visits were paid by your County Medical Officer to the homes of Tuberculous persons.

Health Visitors visited the homes of those affected on 1024 occasions.

All the 35 shelters have been in use; they prove of great value, every effort being made to keep them in good condition by effecting any appropriate repairs as required.

BEDS AT SANATORIA.

The Council reserves one female and four male beds at the Borough Sanatorium, Ipswich, and during the year 29 males, and 16 females were treated there, totalling 4950 in-patient days.

Beds are not reserved elsewhere, but cases have been sent to other Institutions as follows:—

To Lord Mayor Treloar's Home at Alton, 2 male surgical cases were sent, totalling 448 in-patient days.

To Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, 5 male and 1 female surgical cases were sent, totalling 435 in-patient days.

To Naylands Sanatorium, Colchester, 1 female was sent, totalling 275 in-patient days.

To the Fairlight Sanatorium, Hastings, 3 males were sent, totalling 199 in-patient days.

To the Children's Sanatorium, Holt, 3 females were sent, totalling 303 in-patient days.

To the Royal Sea-Bathing Hospital, Margate, 5 male and 2 female surgical cases were sent, totalling 1,862 in-patient days.

To the Eversfield Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea, 2 males were sent, totalling 189 in-patient days.

To Wyton Sanatorium, 3 males and 2 females, all children, totalling 758 in-patient days.

Thus 79 patients, 49 males and 30 females, were sent to Hospitals or Sanatoria, totalling 9,419 in-patient days, an average stay of 117 days per patient, compared with 64 males and 37 females in 1925, with an average stay of 118 days per patient in that year.

Extra nourishments in the form of milk and eggs were provided to Tuberculous persons to the value of £65 12s. 6d., compared with £80 2s. 5d. last year.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK.

78 specimens of Sputum were examined, 18 being found positive, and 60 negative.

Infectious Diseases Notified in the Several Districts for the Year ending 1926.

Disease	URBAN DISTRICTS.						RURAL DISTRICTS.					WISBECH PORT SANITARY DISTRICT.	Combined Total
	Ely	Chatteris	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Total Urban Districts	Ely	North Witchford	Thorney	*Whittlesey	Wisbech	Total Rural Districts	
Small Pox ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Scarlet Fever ..	21	11	3	2	8	45	35	3	1	1	4	44	89
Diphtheria ..	2	3	2	34	5	46	2	2	..	..	5	9	55
Enteric Fever ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	1	..	..	1	4	6
Puerperal Fever ..	..	..	..	..	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	2	4
Typhus Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cholera ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Plague ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Relapsing Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Continued Fever ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cerebro Spinal Fever ..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas ..	2	1	..	8	6	17	4	1	..	3	1	9	26
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	..	1	..	1	2	4	..	3	..	..	5	8	12
Tuberculosis (a) Pulmonary ..	7	1	8	2	8	26	12	7	1	..	8	28	54
(b) Other ..	6	..	2	4	4	16	6	4	1	..	4	15	31
(c) Total ..	13	1	10	6	12	42	18	11	2	..	12	43	85
Chicken Pox ..	30	17	..	..	62	109	15	..	..	..	16	31	140
Whooping Cough ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	..	..	..	10	10
Measles ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46	..	..	..	46	46
Other Diseases													
(a) Pneumonia ..	8	1	..	17	..	26	7	..	..	10	4	21	47
(b) Malaria ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1
(c) Encephalitis Lethargica ..	1	..	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	1	..	4	6
(d) Puerperal Pyrexia ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	2

*From January 1st to September 30th, 1926, only. After this date all for this area have been included in the Whittlesey Urban District

HOUSING.

	Urban Districts				Rural Districts			
	Chatteris	Ely	March	Whittlesey	Wisbech	Ely	North Witchford	Thorney
	Wisbech							
Number of new houses erected during the year 1926 (a) Total	22	23	92	46	58	92	14	15
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919, or 1923—								
(1) By the Local Authority	18	17	0	20	24	76	0	15
(2) By other bodies or persons	4	1	53	26	17	7	11	..
1. Unfit Dwelling-Houses.								
Inspection—								
(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	63	118	87	369	204	85	230	47
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925 .. ..	..	97	0	0	157	70	4	..
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	28	*20	0	..	10	9	0	..
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	17	49	5	..	194	13	15	10
2. Remedy of Defects without serving of formal Notices.								
Number of dwelling-Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	15	3	5	9	188	6	15	10

3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—
 - (a) by owners
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—
 - (a) by owners
 - (b) by Local Authority in default of owners

C. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14, and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made
- (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
- (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

* 2 of these have already been demolished.
 ** Particulars not received.

NOTES FROM THE DISTRICT REPORTS.

1.—*URBAN.*

CHATTERIS URBAN DISTRICT.

Area, 13,719 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £24,401.

Estimated Population, mid-year 1926, 5,115.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 20·5. Death-rate (uncorrected) 14·07. Death-rate (corrected) 10·96. Infantile Mortality-rate, 66·6 per 1,000 births. Illegitimacy-rate per thousand births, 123·8.

The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·779.

There was one death from Whooping Cough and four from Influenza, with complications in each of the latter cases.

The general health of the area has been exceptionally good.

There are no Certified Midwives practising in the area.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is provided by the Urban District Council; likewise bacteriological facilities are provided also.

The Water Supply from Marham has been of good quality, but of poor pressure; measures are being taken to remedy this shortcoming.

A septic tank with the requisite sewers has been provided in connection with the Doddington Road Housing Scheme.

With the exception of excessively muddy and dusty streets at various periods during the year, the general sanitary conditions have been good.

The Council's Scheme of 38 houses on the Doddington Road is approaching completion, some having been occupied before the end of the year.

As Dr. Nix draws attention to the increasing tendency of young adults to remain at home rather than take up work and residence away as in former years, it may be that the increasing use of the motor-cycle by the workers enables them conveniently to take up work at a greater distance from home than they could previously.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT.

Area, 16,742 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £48,701.

Estimated Population, mid-year 1926, 7,457.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 20·38. Death-rate, 11·39 (uncorrected). Death-rate (corrected), 8·61. Infantile Mortality-rate per 1,000 births, 46·05. Illegitimacy-rate per 1,000 births, 78·94.

The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·756.

The bulk of the population is engaged in agriculture. A Beet-Sugar Factory employs a large number of workers for a portion of the year.

The Water Supply for Ely proper, Stuntney, Adelaide, and Prickwillow, is obtained from Waterworks at Isleham, 12 miles distant. An extension has been made at Prickwillow, the water being taken over the river to Mile End and Council Houses on Lark Bank.

Both the River Ouse and River Lark are polluted by sewage and effluent from Beet-Sugar Factories at Ely and Bury St. Edmunds. Suggestions have been made to prevent that at Ely by the provision of more baffles in the settling pond and by the treatment of the effluent. Some of the suggestions have been carried out.

In the first year of the Sugar Beet Factory 80,179 tons of sugar beet were worked. In 1926—1927 the total worked was 188,800 tons, averaging 1,764 tons per day during the working season of about 15 weeks, the beet having been grown on 17,637 acres and supplied by 2,531 growers, compared with 5,941 acres and 1,179 growers last year.

The average sugar content of the beet received improved from 15·27 per cent. in 1925 to 16·17 per cent. in 1926, a sum of £489,734 being received by the growers, at the average price of 57s. 1d. per net ton, or 11s. 5d. per ton in excess of the statutory minimum.

New houses on the Mews site have been connected up with the main drainage system.

Measles cases have been prevalent during the year but no case has been fatal. Also chicken-pox.

The School at Prickwillow was closed for a short time in October because of Scarlet Fever.

25 Dairies and Cowsheds were inspected, and 7 were found to need limewashing.

One licence for the supply of Certified Milk was issued by the Ministry.

12½ Stones of foreign beef and 2 cwt. of bacon were condemned. A Butcher was cautioned for exposing meat in an open cart, and 2 shopkeepers for unprotected food in windows.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is always kept available for use when required.

The Clinical Research Association carry out bacteriological examinations of specimens sent for investigation.

For Diphtheria, 50 negative and 9 positive specimens were sent; for Tubercle, 20 negative and 4 positive; for Enteric Fever, 4 negative specimens.

No primary vaccinations, or re-vaccinations, were performed by the Medical Officer of Health, as such, under the Public Health (Small-pox prevention) Regulations, 1917.

Informal Action only was taken in one case of suspected Tuberculosis in an employee under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925.

In the Ely U.D.C. Surveyor's Annual Report for 1926, the growing need for a proper sewerage scheme was emphasised, there having been 257 sewer stoppages during the year, and 23 new houses erected.

The quantity of water pumped averages over twenty-five gallons per day per head of population.

MARCH URBAN DISTRICT.

Area, 19,777 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £55,345.

Estimated Population, mid-year 1926, 10,100.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 20·89. Death-rate, 10·99 (uncorrected). Death-rate (corrected) 9·00. Infantile Mortality-rate, 61·61 per 1,000 births. Illegitimacy-rate, 56·87 per 1,000 births.

The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·819.

On the whole the year was free from any serious epidemic illness. German Measles was prevalent in the earlier months, and also a mild type of Influenza, whilst Chicken-pox appeared in the later months. Of the deaths under one year of age, whilst only one was registered for the north side of the river, 12 were registered on the south side, a complete reversion of the previous year, and therefore strongly suggesting that residence in either district has very little influence or none at all in regard to the cause of Infant Mortality. One point will have to be faced very soon, *i.e.*, some provision must be made for motor accidents. The number of cases

of serious injury in street and road accidents is becoming alarming. The general hospitals locally are doing their best to cope with these cases, but to the exclusion of other cases of a more or less urgent character.

Distributing and 3-inch supply mains have been laid in several new streets near the County Hall.

No action has been taken yet to check the pollution of the River Nene (old course) by house sewage.

An interesting series of samples of river water was taken in its course through the district, and the analysis showed that a large amount of putrescible material was poured into the river in its passage through the town, and it is evident that much sewage is being turned into the river.

The Urban District Council required the local Gas Company to cease turning their trade waste into an open ditch, the outfall of which led into the river.

It has not yet been possible to devise a sewerage scheme which will operate by gravitation.

The covered septic tanks in Wigstone's Road have been emptied and cleaned. There have been no changes from the conservancy to the water carriage system.

624 privies were emptied and cleaned, the cost of the scavenging service, including the removal of house and trade refuse, involving an expenditure of £1,091 0s. 10d. Sometimes the faeculent material has to be brought through the house, owing to the back premises being inaccessible.

A large number of galvanised iron dustbins have been provided by property owners.

The Council have approved for a period of three years the occupation of a number of converted railway carriages as dwellings until the acute housing shortage is relieved.

Attention is drawn to the need for a refuse destructor.

There were 50 Dairies, 22 Retail Purveyors of Milk, and 48 Cow-keepers, Dairy-men, and wholesale Purveyors of Milk on the Register on December 31st, 1926.

Grade A (Tuberculin Tested) Milk is being produced at a farm in the area, periodical bacteriological examinations of the milk being made by the Clinical Research Association.

A quantity of food, including four quarters of beef, was condemned and destroyed as unfit for human consumption.

Tubercular Disease amongst cattle was found in one case only.

There are 7 Registered and 4 Licensed Slaughter-houses.

Periodical inspections of places where food is prepared have been made, but it has not been necessary to make any complaints.

WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT.

A new district, formed October 1st, 1926, by the combination of the former Whittlesey Urban and Whittlesey Rural Districts, with Dr. C. H. Harding as its Medical Officer of Health.

Area, 26,199 acres. Reduced County Assessable value, £56,059.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 23·04. Death-rate, 15·05 (uncorrected). Death-rate (corrected), 11·82. Infantile Mortality-rate, 96·5 per 1,000 births. Illegitimacy-rate, 68·1 per 1,000 births. The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·786.

Estimated population, mid-year 1926—Before the amalgamation, 4,208; after it, 7,638. The estimated population of the Whittlesey Rural District prior to amalgamation at the mid-year, 1926, was 3,430. The adjusted estimated population for computations of statistics is therefore 5,073 for the old Whittlesey Urban District, and 2,565 for the old Whittlesey Rural District, making a total population of 7,638 for the new and enlarged Whittlesey Urban District.

The number of notifications of Infectious Disease is large, owing principally to an outbreak of Diphtheria, chiefly affecting children of school age.

Pneumonia was rife, owing, no doubt, to Influenza.

Should Smallpox appear, it will have every chance of spreading owing to the refusal of parents to have their children vaccinated. The Peterborough Isolation Hospital is available should a case of Smallpox occur.

Supplies of antidiphtheritic serum are available on application at the Council office.

There is no isolation hospital accommodation for Infectious Diseases other than Smallpox.

Ambulances at March and Peterborough are available when needed.

There is a District Nurse at work in the area, but no practising Midwife. An Infant Welfare Centre has been started here, the meetings being held on Friday afternoons, with Dr. Meikle as its Medical Officer.

The Bye-Laws in force refer to Slaughter Houses, adopted Feb. 22nd, 1899.

New Streets and Buildings—March 28th, 1900.

Nuisances—February 24th, 1909.

Markets—November 24th, 1897.

Dairies and Cowsheds—October 30th, 1907.

There is a Meat Inspector for the late Rural District only.

At the year end the health of the district was satisfactory.

During the year 316 loads of excremental matter and 461 loads of ashpit refuse were carted out of the town.

Forty-six new houses were erected during the year, and 369 houses were inspected; 41 householders draw their water from condemned wells, and 27 draw their water from the Briggate River **where the town sewer discharges into the river.**

The sewers are defective in many places, the sewage leaking into the surrounding soil.

WISBECH MUNICIPAL BOROUGH.

Area, 6477 acres. Reduced County assessable value, £66,385.

Estimated Population, mid year, 1926, 12,000.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 20·16. Death-rate (uncorrected), 12·5. Death-rate (corrected), 9·87. Infantile Mortality-rate, 45·4 per 1,000 births. Illegitimacy-rate, per 1,000 births, 78·5.

The standardising factor for correction of the Death-rate in this area is 0·790.

The District is said to have been enjoying a wonderful immunity from Infectious Sickness.

The Infant Welfare Centre still does good work in the preservation of infant life, the number of attendances of mothers amounting to 917, and of children to 1152.

There were seven deaths from Tuberculosis.

Ambulance facilities are provided free of cost, whilst in needy cases antitoxin and pathological and bacteriological facilities are available.

There are 19 factories, and 67 workshops in the town, but no deleterious trades are carried on, the main industries being the timber trade and fruit growing.

All inhabitants now use the Marham water; the sewerage system is being extended where much needed.

Regret is stated that the number of vaccinated children does not increase, only a very small percentage taking advantage of the facilities provided gratuitously for their benefit.

Two cases of Encephalitis lethargica occurred, one being fatal.

Closing Orders were made in 10 cases, the dilapidated properties having become dangerous.

Fewer cases of overcrowding are now seen, the list of applicants for Council houses showing that more are desirous of getting the better accommodation there provided. It is hoped the question of slum clearance may later be taken up on a broader scale.

Approximately six and a half tons of unsound food were voluntarily surrendered by the owners, condemned, and destroyed.

Of the condemned fresh meat 3,413 lbs. were tainted with Tuberculosis, and 96 lbs. of preserved tongue in glass bottles were found to be tainted.

Vendors are evidently trying to retail a good quality article as is shown by their willingness to sacrifice that which is not of first grade quality.

Of the 13 Slaughter-houses 12 are in regular use.

Milk is produced at 18 farms, and there are 23 Cowsheds and 10 Dairies in the Borough; wholesale milk purveyors number 21, whilst there are 30 retail sellers. Of the latter 15 sell milk direct from the farm, whilst in 6 cases milk-selling is their main business, but in the other 9 it is only a side-line to the business of a butcher in 4 cases, and to general grocery in 5.

The 3 Common Lodging Houses accommodate 60 men, but there is no accommodation as yet for women.

II.—RURAL.

ELY RURAL DISTRICT.

Area, 63,999 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £70,902.
Estimated Population, mid-year 1926, 13,150.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 19·92. Death-rate (uncorrected), 11·63.
Death-rate (corrected), 8·59. Infantile Mortality-rate, 68·7 per 1,000
births. Illegitimacy-rate per 1,000 births, 53·4.

The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this
area is 0·739.

There are no beds available for the isolation of Small-pox.

The Infant Welfare Centre at Little Downham dropped out of
existence during the year. It was always a very small one.

Bacteriological facilities are provided for practitioners by the
Council, specimens being examined by Dr. W. Henwood Harvey, at
37, Green Street, Cambridge; antitoxin is issued gratis in cases of
Diphtheria.

In connection with the public Water Supply, 1241 dwelling
houses are now supplied. Approximately 60 per cent. of the
population benefit from the scheme.

Inhabitants of the Fen area who can cart the water are supplied
from the hydrants.

Haddenham, Wilburton, Stretham, and Thetford are still supplied
from public wells.

A new 6 inch sewer has been laid to accommodate 50 new Council
Houses at Littleport, and a screen has been built in the outfall ditch
to prevent solid material entering the Fen drains.

Of 1810 houses, 806 are on the Pail System, 528 Pit, 68 Trough,
and 408 on the Water Closet System.

Occupiers of Cowsheds are in several instances anticipating the
requirements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, by having
structural alterations carried out.

Nine Dairies used for Cheese-making were inspected, and several
notices were served for the cleansing of wells.

Slaughter-houses are inspected monthly, at the hours of slaughter where possible. No case of disease in meat was found, or reported.

There were 2 cases of Diphtheria and 2 of Typhoid Fever in Littleport, and 1 of each of these diseases at Little Downham. A case of sleepy sickness, or Encephalitis Lethargica, occurred at Sutton; it was removed to Addenbrooke's Hospital, death taking place subsequently.

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

One case of attendance on a case of midwifery at Little Downham by an unqualified medical male practitioner was discovered during the year, but as it happened a few days before the Midwives and Maternity Homes Act, 1926, came into force no action could be taken. Action might have been taken under the Notification of Births Acts, 1907, for non-notification of the birth, but the County Council decided that it was preferable to prosecute for a major future offence rather than the minor present offence of non-notification of a birth.

Forty-eight workshops were inspected, seven being found wanting in cleanliness, the trouble being remedied subsequently in each case.

NORTH WITCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT.

Area, 26,088 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £34,401.

Estimated Population, mid-year 1926, 5081.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 16·5. Death-rate, 13·3 (uncorrected). Death-rate (corrected) 10·59. Infantile Mortality-rate, 47·61 per 1,000 births. Illegitimacy-rate, 107·14 per 1,000 births.

The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·792.

Probably a Nurse-midwife will soon be engaged for Benwick, Doddington, and Wimblington.

Dr. Stephens points out that there might be less Tubercle and less bronchitis if people slept with their bedroom windows open, and there might be less Cerebral Haemorrhage if people over 50 years of age had their blood pressure taken at intervals. All would do well to make unlimited use of God's free gifts—air and water—but to be more moderate, as they grow older, with His more expensive blessing—food. It is very unsatisfactory having to nurse all infectious cases at home.

The first opportunity should be taken of giving Benwick a good water supply.

Rivers and Streams are polluted to a certain extent.

54 people applied for Registration under the Milk and Dairies Orders.

No action has been taken as to tubercular milk or cattle, and no Veterinary Surgeon has been appointed by the Council.

One case of evading Part II., Section 8, of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1921, relating to cattle slaughter was successfully taken before the Justices.

This case was interesting inasmuch as a cow died on the roadway. It was subsequently cut up and sold for human consumption. It was submitted in the course of the trial that the term "slaughtering" did not terminate with the death of an animal but included the preparation of the meat for human consumption. The offence committed was a technical one, and consisted in not giving notice that an animal had been so slaughtered.

Diphtheria antitoxin and anti-tetanus serum are supplied by the Council, and bacteriological facilities are also provided.

Two cases of Encephalitis Lethargica had occurred.

The notification of tubercle is carried out well in the district.

It has been estimated that the population has decreased from 5,195 to 5,081 during the year.

THORNEY RURAL DISTRICT.

Area, 18,959 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £17,512.

Estimated population, mid-year, 1926, 2,569.

1926 Statistics:—Birth-rate, 17·9. Death-rate (uncorrected), 7·39. Death-rate (corrected), 7·36. Infantile Mortality-rate, 65·2 per 1,000 births. Illegitimacy-rate per 1,000 births, **nil**. The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·996.

No causes of sickness or invalidity have been specially noteworthy during the year.

The General Hospital for the district is the Peterborough Infirmary and Dispensary, with 75 beds; at this Hospital in 1926 there were 876 in-patients and 1,435 out-patients and casualty cases. 556 major and 233 minor operations were performed there.

On the eastern side of the district a few residents apply for treatment at the Wisbech Hospital.

An Infant Welfare Centre has been started by voluntary enterprise.

No work has yet been begun for the improvement of the filter beds for the village water supply.

Two bakehouses were inspected and found sanitary.

WISBECH RURAL DISTRICT.

Area, 46,113 acres. Reduced County Assessable Value, £72,005.

Estimated population to mid-year, 1926, 13,960.

Birth-rate, 18·69. Uncorrected death-rate, 8·30. (Corrected death-rate, 7·56). Infantile Mortality-rate per 1,000 births, 53·63. Illegitimacy-rate per 1,000 births, 65·13. The standardising factor for correction of the death-rate in this area is 0·901.

There is still a shortage of houses in the Friday Bridge district. Houses are wanted in the village and at a rent that a man earning thirty shillings a week can pay. To build houses for labourers of such a size and rent that the tenant must let off half to another in order to meet the cost of the rent is very unsatisfactory for the health of all concerned, not to mention their comfort and happiness.

It is pointed out that ere long some of the older houses in Friday Bridge village must be demolished.

Fruit-pickers are well housed as a rule, but growers must endeavour to supply ample fresh drinking water daily to the pickers. Complaints are rife that their bunks are not kept clean and tidy, and that refuse is not properly disposed of from such habitations.

It is suggested that places intended for the accommodation of fruit-pickers should be registered by the Council, in order to facilitate their inspection.

III.—PORT.

WISBECH PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The health of the Port has been good.

The Port Hospital has been inspected and always found clean and in a condition ready for use. Some repairs are now requisite for the preservation of the fabric.

72 inspections were made, no infection was found, nor was any rat trouble met with. The cargoes carried—superphosphate, stone and wood—are not such as to encourage their presence.

Aliens do not land in this Port; there are no arrangements for the reception of wireless messages.

Water taken in by ships is obtained from a pump in Wharf Street, Sutton Bridge, a notice on the pump directing that for drinking purposes the water should be boiled.

Care is taken that no ship enters the Port until the Captain has given an assurance that there is no illness aboard.

29 foreign steamers with a total tonnage of 11,348, and 47 coastwise steamers with a tonnage of 5,878, 1 sailing ship of 132 tons, and 14 motor boats with a tonnage of 1,024, made up a total of 62 coast-going ships with a total tonnage of 7,034 tons.

Thus the foreign-going and coasting ships in all amounted to 91 with a total tonnage of 18,382 tons.

Of these ships, 4 were inspected by the Medical Officer of Health, and 72 by the Sanitary Inspector.

INDEX.

	PAGE
Bacteriological Work	34
Beds at Sanatoria	34
Beet Sugar Production	39
Birth-rates	11
Blind Persons Welfare	29
Cancer	15
Causes of Death	16
Centres, Infant Welfare	27
Child Welfare	27
Clinics, Tuberculosis	30
Death-rates	11
District Reports—Urban	38
" " —Rural	45
" " —Port	49
Drugs, Sale of Food and	22
Fees, Midwifery	27
Financial Statement	10
Factors for Standardisation of Death Rates	14
Health Visitors	6
Home Visiting of Tuberculosis Cases	34
Housing	36
Infantile Mortality	11
Infectious Diseases	35
Local Government Officers Superannuation.. .. .	27
Local Sanitary Authorities	7
Maternity and Child Welfare	27
Mental Deficiency	21
Meteorology	20
Midwifery Fees for Necessitous Persons	27
Midwives.. .. .	27
Mortality, Infantile	11
Notification of Infectious Diseases	35
Pollution of Rivers	39, 41
Population	11
Sale of Food and Drugs	22
Staff	6
Standardising Factors for Death Rates	14
Superannuation of Nurses	27
Tuberculosis	30
Vaccination	40, 42, 43
Veneral Diseases	28
Visitors, Health	7
Vital Statistics	12
Welfare of the Blind	29

